

FROM LOUISIANA

**They Wait on President Garfield and Present Him
with an Address—Their Wants in the State
and Great Prosperity—The
President's Reply.**

The delegation of colored men from Louisiana called on the President Wednesday afternoon by appointment. Congressman-elect

"This committee, authorized to be appointed by representative assemblages of colored Republicans of Louisiana, beg respectfully to present to Your Excellency the sincere congratulations of the colored people of Louisiana on the success of our grand old party, and your entrance on the discharge of the important duties pertaining to the exalted office of President of the United States: not laud

remembrance that we contributed nothing to your election in the Electoral College, because we are confident that the entire country knows that through fraud the expression of our loyal will and purpose at the ballot-box was disgracefully suppressed and prevented. We are proud to felicitate Your Excellency on what we believe to be a wise and judicious selection of Cabinet officers, comprising men of eminence and known integrity; and specially do we commend the selection of Hon. William H. Hunt, our elected attorney-general in 1876.

inspired confidence and assurance in the ranks of the Republican party throughout the State. The broad and comprehensive measures looking toward the protection of our suffrage and the purity of the ballot are an index to the peace and prosperity of our section. If we are citizens of this great country we ask the National Government to protect us as such. We do not contend for any further legislation or congressional enactment. The Constitution and statute-books contain sufficient. We simply ask for the enforcement of these laws as humble citizens of this Common-

of our race through education, and the wise husbanding of our resources to the highest plane of civilization, gives us confidence in your future students exemption of the laws throughout every part of this mighty Union of States. While we desire to impress upon the country our devotion to its interests, as law-abiding citizens, all-mindful to the diversity of opinion as regards the era of reconstruction, we claim with reason and fact that only over-prejudiced and biased minds lay stress to the assumption that our people were responsible

WE CLAIM AS A RACE that through our school-houses and higher institutions of learning, through our churches and social organizations, we have kept pace with the Nation in its march of progress. We claim that in our State, notwithstanding the many sad experiences that our people have been forced to suffer for the past several years, we can point with just pride and satisfaction to the last election as an evidence of the strong and unswerving devotion of the race to the National Republican party and its

questionable election of the Republican candidate, the Hon. C. B. Darrall, in the Third Congressional District. We are proud to be able to say that the Third Congressional District no longer forms a part of the "Solid South." The District is, in every sense of the word, prosperous. The white citizens during the last election were peaceful and law-abiding, and our race is industrious and true to every trust. We specially rejoice over Your Excellency's views in relation to education. As regards this subject, we shall attend to the first that the Secretary of the congressional board of lands for school purposes

THE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
Established in 1874, under the auspices of four States, this agricultural college was organized and conducted on the terms which Congress specially prescribed, and while it remained under such control flourished and promised great success. A large number of boys, children of honorable Democrats, as well as of the colored race, were admitted, and the same in the same class-room under the same qualified Democrats as teachers, and great hopes of the equal enjoyment of the advantages provided by the generosity of Congress were justly entertained. This now famous college has been opened to boys, in plain default of Virginia.

progress has been made by our race in this respect and, although in spite of the Democratic party we are in our State and section, and have verily been the pursuit of knowledge under difficulties. We have done well, we believe. Many of our people are now possessed of the average American education, and made it for the intelligent exercise of qualities they need, and are better placed in the charmed circle of skilled industrial occupations.

WE HAVE NO INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTIONS

for our children—places where they can be employed and saved from the debasing influences of poverty and vice. With these avenues closed, and

But ruthlessly checked, our honest efforts rebuked as pretensions, we are regarded as an inferior race and are despised for those circumstances which have befallen under similar circumstances. We beg further to call Your Excellency's attention to the great and growing necessity for, and the peculiar interest our people have in the system of universal suffrage, immediately introduced by the republican party. The colored people of Louisiana comprise a fraction over one-half of its entire population. It is generally conceded that their labor, as far as the South's agriculture is concerned, is controlled by the people whose landed interests, comparatively speaking, is a mere bagatelle.

others in any other State, or of any three Southern States combined. Our race in Louisiana pays taxes on \$25,000,000 worth of property. Georgia, with more population, does not pay a third of the amount, and Kentucky and North Carolina pay on a fraction over \$3,000,000.

WE POINT WITH JUST PRIDE

to this fact, because it shows a greater tendency and a desire on the part of our people to husband their resources and acquire homes for their children who must come after them. We are deeply proud of the fact that we are the only State operating a levee north of our great river, and in fostering trade between New Orleans, the Central and South

zhits of the sugar and rice and live-eighths if the cotton crop annually are deeply concerned in the protection of the plantations from over-crow, even if the property belongs to another owner and more than one harvest are plentiful, then the receipts of the laborer, who generally works on shares in the cotton-belt, are correspondingly increased. If, on the other hand, the banks of the river be broken, the great misery, hardships, and sufferings of the belt are again plentifully described. We believe that the parent Government has a right and ought to take charge of these improvements in the interest of peace and happiness between sections and races.

allowing its votaries in our State. Our white slave-citizens are beginning to realize that the practical and not the sentimental in life brings peace and plenty to their homes and to communities. They have profound feelings of satisfaction in the interest you have taken in improving the condition of the South. Your inaugural gives evidence that the views and sentiments expressed by you while a member of Congress allow you to the higher and more exalted citizenship of the President. It is a gratifying fact that our Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade are composed exclusively of one race, and almost of one political party, does

WE THEREFORE, WHILE THANKING YOU for your kindly expressions of good will, renew our hope and wish that the South, and more particularly our State, which has suffered so much, will claim a large share of attention in the matter of reconstruction, commerce and trade, and in the proper protection of its levees.

"Thus epitomizing our condition and desires, we invoke, as a duty to a race and people enthusiastically devoted to a party which they venerate, the high consideration of the President in his significant record, the earnest consideration and action of the National Government consistent with even what Your Excellency terms 'the au-

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY.

ana. He expressed a desire to have the delegation call again and lay before him specific statements relative to the management of the Mechanical and Agricultural College referred to in his address.